



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

March, 2025

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Can you believe that it is March already? This year has been moving along at a quick pace, and we have just four months left in our academic year. I look forward to these coming months as the weather begins to warm and our children prepare to move up to their next grade levels!

March 3-7 is Read Across America, and your children will be participating in various reading activities in their classrooms throughout the month. The Student Council will hold a [Read Across America Themed Spirit Week](#).

I encourage you to take some time to read with them this month (and any month) as it is your guidance and example that sets the tone for their reading success throughout school. Check out <https://www.readingrockets.org/audience> for some great ideas and resources for reading with your children and assisting them with their reading. Let's make this a great reading month for all the families in Lebanon Borough!

As you may know, March is Women's History Month.

The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. In 1981, Rep. Barbara Mikulski and Sen. Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week during the week of March 8th. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month. I encourage everyone to reflect with the children upon the many accomplishments of women in our society.

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on March 9th for Daylight Saving Time. Have a great March LBS!

Important Dates

- Mar 3-7: Read Across America
- Mar 3: PTA Mtg 6:30pm
- Mar 4: BOE Mtg 6:30pm
- Mar 9: Daylight Savings - move clocks ahead one hour
- Mar 19: 12:45PM Early Dismissal - Inservice

Dates for planning

- Apr 17: Early Dismissal - Inservice
- Apr 18-27: Spring Break
- May 7-8: NJSLA 5th Science
- May 12-16: NJSLA 3rd-6th ELA/Math
- May 19-23: NJSLA Make-ups
- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 4: Early Dismissal - Inservice
- June 5: Spring Concert/Show
- June 6: Field Day



Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent



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YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)



LBS Field Trip to The Growing Stage- The Children's Theater of New Jersey

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students of LBS took a field trip to enjoy a musical performance of *Catching the Moon: The Young Girl's Baseball Dream*. This musical drama is an adaptation of the book with the same title written by Crystal

Hubbard. The book and lyrics were written by Nichole Jackson, and the music and lyrics were written by Tyrone L. Robinson.

Marcenia Lyle Stone, also known as "Toni Stone," was the first woman to play for an all-male professional baseball team. This story depicts the pursuit and perseverance of a young girl's

dream to play baseball for former St. Louis Cardinals player Gabby Street. The performance was enjoyed by all. The audience was treated to a special Q&A session with all of the actors and the show's director,

facilitated by the theater manager. The LBS Staff and students would like to thank the LBS PTA for their generous support in making the field trip a memorable experience for all.



Health Office...

Bully Free Zone: The students finished the month of February working on the character trait of FAIRNESS. They also had a wonderful Spirit Week and celebrated the 100th day of school. Lastly, the students enjoyed themselves during the Wingman Activity Day.

We look forward to the character trait of RESPONSIBILITY for the months of March and April.

Responsibility means one acts in a mature manner and is prepared for any consequences, both positive and negative. [Better Together!](#)

Nurse's News: With the increased use of computers, TV watching, and smartphones, our eyes are at risk of becoming strained. Digital eye strain is caused by staring at a computer screen for too long. Digital eye strain can cause headaches, blurred vision and dry or watery eyes. Follow the 20-20-20 Rule and give your eyes a break. If you or your child are experiencing vision changes, please consult with your eye doctor.



Art

In February, our art classes have been bursting with creativity and learning! Students in 1st through 5th grades explored the life and work of the incredible artist Lois Mailou Jones in honor of Black History Month,

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discovering her influence and unique style. Our 3rd to 6th graders wrapped up their projects on one-point perspective, showcasing their skills in depth and space. Kindergarten and 1st graders got hands-on with stained glass art, crafting their very own Saint Patrick's Day creations. Additionally, students began their exciting journey into clay sculpture, experimenting with texture and form. February has been a month of artistic expression and cultural enrichment!



Enrichment/Media/Technology

Research Projects: The Fourth graders practiced how to develop and support a thesis statement from research. The fourth graders create a thesis statement to convince us which state is the BEST to visit on our next vacation! The fifth graders created a group Google slide show to teach each other about the background of Denmark to prepare for reading Number the Stars. The Sixth graders created and presented Slideshows on a Greek God or Goddesses that they researched. This project tied into their Greek Mythology unit in 6th grade history.

First, second, and third graders learned about the Lunar New Year, which is celebrated in many Asian countries around the world. We learned that the color **RED** is an extremely important color and is often seen as good luck! We also read Groundhog books and learned about the groundhog's burrow. The children were surprised to learn that groundhogs create different rooms in their burrows, such as a bathroom, bedroom, and food storage room!

The second and third graders also learned how to create a rebus story in a Google document. A rebus story is a story where some of the words are replaced with images.

So the children created stories, and in place of some words, they included an emoji. They had fun creating their rebus stories and sharing them with their classmates.



First graders also did a valentine stem activity, creating valentines pictures out of pattern blocks and building the tallest tower out of conversation hearts, which the children said was harder than it looks.



Kindergarten students have been reading various books on February topics such as groundhogs, Valentine's day, and the 100th day! We are also focusing on rhyming the past few weeks; we listen to rhyming books and give a thumbs up when we hear a rhyme. We also identified how many syllables are in a word. The students are becoming rhyming and syllable-counting experts. We have also been eagerly awaiting the hatching of the DUKE



FARMS Eaglets! It is so fun to see them transform over the next few weeks! Here is the [DUKE FARMS EAGLE CAM](#) link if you would like to check it out!

Next month, the 4th-6th grades will be competing in MARCH MAMMAL MADNESS, where animals will compete in simulated fighting until there is one



mammal champion, similar to NCAA basketball. (Not to worry, no animals are actually harmed!) If you would like to learn more about this or follow along with us, please click here: [March Mammal Madness 2025](#)!

Music

In February, we began working on our Spring Musical, High School Musical.

The fifth and sixth grades will rehearse with each other in the mornings on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:45 a.m.

Fourth graders will increase their ensemble performance by playing music that contains harmonic parts. They have been doing a wonderful job of playing music in unison. They will also focus on dynamic parts as an ensemble.

The third grade has worked on treble clef note identification and the C major scale.

In preschool through second grade, we will focus on the role of the conductor and how to interpret musical cues. This will help them when they perform as ensemble members in High School Musical. The Spring Concert will take place on June 5th, 2025.



Physical Education/Health

This month in PE, we focused on building our basketball skills. We practiced and played a lot of games that revolved around dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and strategy. All the kids had a great time working on their form and mechanics, learning to generate force to shoot, to make proper passes, and the timing and touch of hand dribbling. The pics below are my favorites of our youngest students shooting into a padded shooting area that contained a couple of their classmates from different distances and their classmates tossing the foam balls back out. You can't beat the smiles on their faces! In Health, we worked on our grade-level Great Body Shop health topics of the month. Next month, we will transition into striking with an implement and our Great Body Shop health topics of the month.



Spanish

¡Fabuloso febrero! In February, we were quite busy! We started the month talking about preferences for all things, especially futbol americano—American football! We talked about which team we preferred to win the Super Tazon (Super Bowl) using the vocabulary words we have been studying. We had a day of gridiron fun and split into two teams, scrambling to answer questions about Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and content.

We are extending our practice and knowledge by making charts depicting our preferences. We also learned how to talk about el Dia de San Valentin. We learned vocabulary for many Valentine's Day words, including hearts, candy, and cards, as well as how to

express our love and friendship to our families and friends. Students created "tarjetas" (cards) with a special message in Spanish to a loved one. What a great time to be in la clase de espanol!



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Preschool

AM: This month in preschool we have been busy finishing up our clothing unit and starting our wheels unit. We learned about how wheels are round (no straight sides or corners), and this is why they roll. We celebrated Valentine's Day with our friends and learned about Dr. Seuss before his birthday. We practiced rhyming words, sorting, staying on topic in a

conversation, counting, shapes, patterns, and celebrated the 100th day of school. In March, we will finish up our wheels unit. We will learn about the meaning of responsibility and how we demonstrate it. We will start our Spring theme and continue with our handwriting practice and St. Patrick's Day projects. We will continue improving our rhyming, sorting, cutting, sequencing, counting, coloring, and gluing skills.

PM: This month in preschool, we have been busy learning about birds, the zoo, and Dr. Seuss and celebrating Valentine's Day. We practiced working on rhyming, opposites, counting, and journal writing. In March, we will learn about the 5 senses, St. Patrick's Day, and spring and start our life cycles unit. We will practice our handwriting skills with our learning without tears program, journals, and

practice. We enjoyed as much outside time as we could.



Kindergarten

The kindergarten class has been having a lot of fun celebrating the February school holidays! We started off the month celebrating Groundhog's Day. We learned what type of weather causes shadows. We partnered with our 6th grade friends to make predictions and test our predictions. We read nonfiction books to learn about groundhogs. The 100th day of school celebration included counting to 100, reading books about the 100th day, counting 100 beads in groups by 10s to make necklaces, working with our 6th-grade friends, making 100 day hats, playing games and more!

In reading, we are continuing to read fiction and nonfiction texts. We are discussing the story elements.

The class is continuing to learn new sight words. They are working on their "Sight Word Challenge" individually and learning words throughout our reading program as well. We are continuing to write in our journals, and we work hard in the writing center each week. The class is also reading books on their individual reading level with me during reading time. Next month, we will be practicing finding rhymes in poems. We will be reading many books to celebrate "Read Across America" week! We will be celebrating by listening to and reading many Dr. Seuss stories and doing projects. We will also partner read with older students.

In math, we are currently working on writing numbers to 100. The students are learning to tell their own addition and subtraction problems using the information given. They will also be learning to add to a given number to make 10.





We have been practicing different ways to make 10. We are also working on writing numbers to 100 and skip counting by 5s and 10s. The students will continue to use centers and manipulatives to reinforce these concepts.

In social studies, we have been learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We have also been learning about famous black Americans who paved the way for others, like Martin Luther King Jr. They also learned about inventors like Garrett Morgan and athletes like Simone Biles for Black History Month. In science, we completed our weather unit, and we made cloud books to learn about the different types of clouds and the weather they bring. Next, in science students will learn why birds lay eggs in spring. They will learn how birds change their environment to meet their needs. They will also do an

activity to create a bird's nest.

First Grade

First grade has been very busy! We had a blast celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school! In Science, we wrapped up our unit on Animal Superpowers, and we began our unit on light and sound. We learned that sound effects artists use all kinds of everyday objects to make sounds in cartoons. For example, heavy paper, a metal baking sheet, and a tin baking sheet all make different sounds that are used in animations! We also learned that a vibration can be a sound that is created when an object moves back and forth. We even used our hands and rulers to make our own rainstorm! In the weeks to come, we will also dive into a Social Studies unit on weather.



In math, we've learned how to write, count, and represent numbers to 120. Most recently, we learned how to compare numbers using the words "greater than", "less than," and "equal to". Additionally, we're learning how to use the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$ to compare numbers. In the next module, we will understand how to add and subtract using tens and ones.

In reading, we've been working on our reading fluency. We're learning that when a word doesn't make sense or sound right, we should go back and re-read it so it makes sense. We're also practicing reading books with the spelling patterns that we're learning about during spelling time. The students also love Reader's Workshop time when they each choose a book they want to read, and we read it together.

We're also practicing our fluency by reading our weekly poem daily and buddy-reading stories together. In writing, we just finished our "How-to" books where the students chose something to teach and write about. Among some of the titles were How to Make S'mores, How to Make an Icy, and How to Make Popcorn! Now, we're focusing on our sentence mechanics, such as including capitals, punctuation, and finger spacing.

We are excited for March and, hopefully, some warmer weather! St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, so we will have to see if that sneaky leprechaun comes! Stay tuned!

Second Grade

February proved to be a brief yet enriching month for our second-grade students!



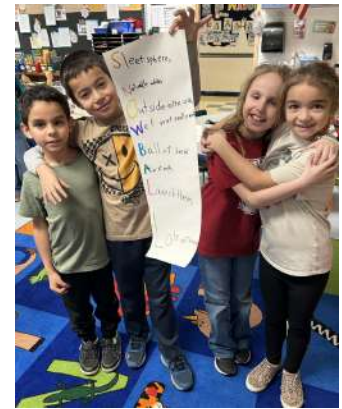
In math, students are mastering regrouping strategies. Their experience with base ten blocks has empowered them to trade ones for tens, paving the way for more advanced addition and subtraction algorithms. In reading, we have delved into traditional folktales while also exploring various exciting nonfiction text features. Students are now able to read nonfiction texts and articulate how specific graphs and charts enhance comprehension of complex material. In science, students formulated hypotheses and investigated the formation of canyons. Through hands-on activities, they created cornmeal canyons to model landforms, observing how water can reshape the land over extended periods. Additionally, students developed maps to document the interaction between land and water across the state. They successfully explained how diverse land shapes and types can influence the likelihood of rainfall leading to flash floods.



This exploration is crucial for understanding the impact of erosion on our environment.

In social studies, students have engaged in independent projects, designing maps of the United States that highlight major rivers and notable landforms.

February was also vibrant with special holiday activities, including celebrations for the 100th Day and Valentine's Day. Students collaborated on various learning activities and crafts, fostering teamwork and creativity. As we look ahead, there is great enthusiasm for March and the promise of Spring!



Third Grade

The month of love has been filled with lots of love for learning in third grade! We are certainly in the zone and accomplishing so much in the classroom in preparation for state testing in the spring. In ELA, we have started a new unit about the food chain and are learning all about how plants and animals live together in the world around us. We have gotten to explore many animal and plant relationships, as well as learn fun facts about how animals help each other and the Earth! We are finishing our personal narratives and have become experts in the writing process. We are becoming very adventurous writers and including lots of details and new vocabulary in our writing pieces!

In Math, we have moved on to division and are learning all about different strategies to help us divide into equal groups. We are beginning to learn that there is a connection between multiplication and division and are working on our related math facts. It is so fun to see how all of the multiplication facts we have repeatedly practiced are able to be applied to a different type of math!

In Social Studies, we completed our unit on United States Geography and have learned about our own country's different types of land features, climates, and resources. In Science, we have begun our pollination unit and are beginning fun experiments all about pollination and why certain pollinators are important to the world and the life cycle around us!

We had the opportunity to participate in Wingman this month with the 4th grade class, and had a blast! We also had the chance to complete a science lesson with the 5th graders about moon phases, as well as celebrate the 100th day of school with them with 100 second activities! We are looking forward to warmer weather and all of the learning we will continue to do in the spring!

Fourth Grade

February was short on days but long on learning and fun in grade 4!

The 100th day of fourth grade was celebrated during a wonderful spirit week organized by the Student Council. Our class took on the “100-Piece Puzzle Challenge!” Some puzzle solvers put together their puzzles in less than 38 minutes! We also enjoyed giving and receiving Valentine messages and collecting them in personalized, creative, hand-made designer bags!

We are improving our multi digit division skills by utilizing many ways to divide large dividends-(partial quotients, area, models, distributive property, and DMSBR strategy). We continue to practice our fast facts daily, both division and multiplication for improved quicker recall.

Writers’ Workshop activities include our personal narratives, as well as research and writing paragraphs about important black American citizens. Each of the paragraphs was “published” and read aloud as part of our school’s morning announcements. The hooks and leads they are developing for their work are creative and attention-grabbing!



Our featured poetry style of writing this month was the cinquain. A cinquain is a five line poem structured with one noun, two adjectives, three -’ing’ words, a four-word phrase, and a synonym for the first line. The students chose a friend, family member, special someone, or pet as the subject of the “Friendship Cinquains.” They are displayed on the class bulletin board for all to enjoy.

Animal Adaptations Mystery Science unit has our fourth-grade scientists discovering the answers to intriguing questions like “Why do some sea creatures look so strange?” by studying the unique features of the frogfish. The class did research and hands-on experiments to determine why the same trees don't grow everywhere. They recreated roots and branch systems and analyzed them to determine which types of trees can grow in certain places.

We are learning about the themes of equality, inclusion, racism, and segregation through our read aloud “The Hero Two Doors Down” by Sharon Robinson.

The author is the daughter of Jackie Robinson. It’s told from the point of view of an 8-year-old boy whose hero, Jackie Robinson, moves into his Jewish neighborhood while playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Novel Study of “Mr. Popper’s Penguins” has provided us with rich vocabulary, improving summarization skills, main idea, compression, theme, and figurative language. It gives a look into the lifestyle and customs of the 1940’s, as well as everything regarding the Antarctic, train travel, and penguins. The class did a FANTASTIC job performing mini-scene skits from the story. Bravo!



Fifth Grade

It’s little surprise that the shortest month of the year has flown by! From bell to bell, grade five students have been hard at work. In math, after tackling all aspects of fractions and mixed numbers, the class is taking some time to brush up on a wide array of important skills: converting units of time, units of length and mass, interpreting graphs, and solving multi-step word problems. As we move through the month, we will begin the major focus of the second half of the school year: understanding and computing with decimals.

Fifth graders are working on a variety of different skills and with a wide variety of stories in language arts. We recently finished reading the Newberry Award-winning historical fiction novel *Number the Stars*. Set in occupied Denmark during World War II, the story of a ten-year-old girl – and the Danish

people as a whole – who risked everything to sabotage German forces who sought to harm their countrymen because of their faith. (The class also researched Denmark in their media class with Mrs. Baldoni, offering the chance to make lots of great connections to the historical and cultural details embedded in the text!)

In science, we've been keeping our eyes on the skies as we concluded our Spaceship Earth unit. Now that we know why many of the constellations change with the seasons, we look forward to looking up at the Springtime constellations Leo, Virgo, and Bootes. Next up, in social studies, we'll take a look at some of our nation's founding documents and consider the values that led to the establishment of the United States. We'll then take those ideals and see how they have been perfected over time through the many movements for civil rights that span American history.

The grade 5 class hopes that everyone has a wonderful month of March and is looking forward to the arrival of Spring in full force!

Sixth Grade

During February, we have been exploring topics and people related to Black History Month. Each day, we have a link (or two) about a topic and/or person from history who has contributed to the welfare of our country. It is a good time for the students to become familiar with these important people in our history.

Along those same lines, we have completed our novel, *Elijah of Buxton*, tying together the threads of the Underground Railroad, slavery, and freedom with the coming of age of the title character, Elijah. The story started slowly, but by the end of the book, everyone was invested in the story of Elijah and Mr. Leroy and the people Elijah discovers in a barn. Ask your student about it! Last week, we began prep work for our next novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. The 6th graders seem to be looking forward to it.

In math, we are finishing our equations unit, and in March, we will continue to learn more about a coordinate plane before moving on to volume and surface area. In science, we have finished our Biome Reports and are beginning to learn about earth science. It should be fun! In history, we have finished Ancient Greece and begun learning about ancient Rome. This unit is very interactive, with each person assuming a Roman identity and participating in government role plays throughout the unit.

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org